

Read as much as you can!



Wellesley School Libraries
2008 Elementary Summer Reading List

June 2008

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to summer and reading for pleasure!

As school librarians we believe strongly that students should continue to read over the summer. We also know that summer is a time for families to relax, enjoy and pursue individual interests. We believe that students should have the opportunity to choose the books they read over the summer, and it is in that spirit that we research and provide our list of recommended reading.

This year brings many changes to our Summer Reading list. We have decided to post our original fifty-two pages of book recommendations online on our district and individual library websites, as well as on the Wellesley Free Library website. These changes are in an attempt to be more conscious of our earth's natural resources, and based on feedback from our teacher colleagues, parents and the public library staff about how the list is used. Students will continue to receive our new selections each year in a much shorter print format.

We encourage all students to fill out a summer reading record, which can be found online or in hard copy at the public library. Librarians and teachers use this record of reading in many ways. For example, when helping students choose books in library class, it is very helpful for us to know what they are interested in reading. Classroom teachers sometimes ask students to write about what they have read, and our library class conversations often begin in September with students eager to tell their peers about a particularly good summer read. Lastly, we also use this record to assist us in purchasing new titles.

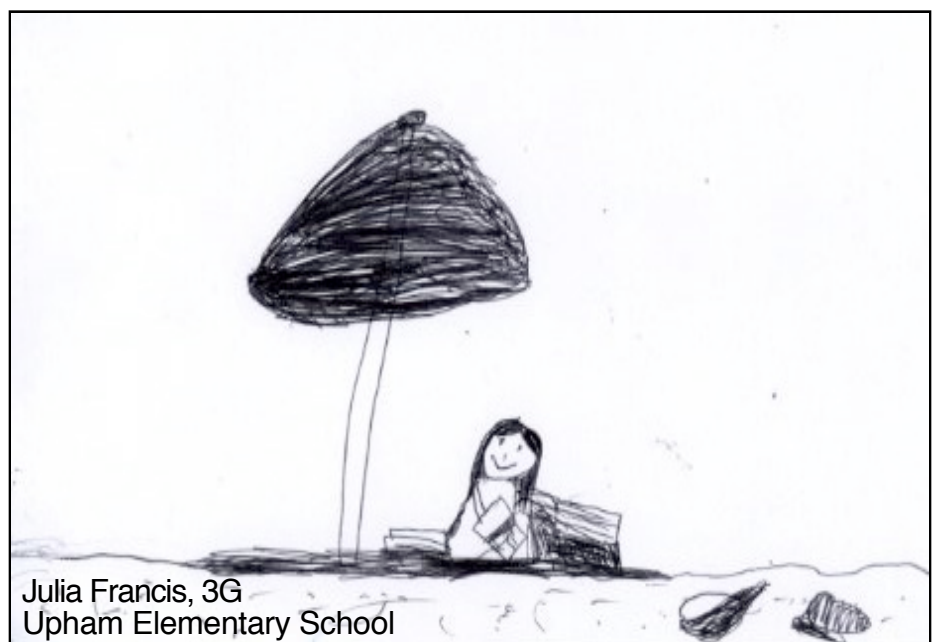
It is our hope that you will take your children often to visit the public library. Free lending libraries date back to 1876 and are an integral part of our American democracy's mission to provide unrestricted access to knowledge and literature to all. Today's public libraries have the funds and space to house a fabulous collection of books, DVD's, audiobooks, and music as well as the staffing and mission to create multi-age programming and book lists to reflect the varied interests of your children. Most importantly, as they grow older, children accustomed to visiting the library are better prepared to continue their use of books for pleasure and schoolwork.

This year's cover artwork was chosen from student submissions at the Upham School. Many thanks to art teacher Diane Redfield for her support with this project and help in selecting from their masterpieces.

We wish everyone a fun-filled summer!

Happy Reading,

Pamela Allen, Fiske School
Nicholas Lykling, Schofield School
Ellen Mandel, Sprague School
John Maxwell, Bates School
Lisa Rogers, Hardy School
Roxanne Scott, Hunnewell School
Pamela Yosca, Upham School



Julia Francis, 3G
Upham Elementary School

The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County

Janice Harrington

A young farm girl tries to catch her favorite chicken, until she learns something about the hen that makes her change her ways. (34 p. *Realistic Fiction*)

The Dumpster Diver

Janet S. Wong

Once a month--every week in the summer--Steve the electrician dons special gear and, with the help of youngsters who live in his building, dives into a dumpster seeking useful objects that they can transform into imaginative new ones. (28p. *Fiction*)

Young Pele: Soccer's First Star

Lesa Cline-Ransome

Explores the childhood of Pele, discussing how a poor, Brazilian boy became one of the best soccer players in the world. (34p. *Biography*)

Grades K-3

Dolley Madison Saves George Washington

Don Brown

Describes the significant contribution Dolley Madison made to the United States when she saved a picture of George Washington. (32p. *Biography*)

Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners

Laurie Keller

Mr. Rabbit worries about getting along with his new neighbors, who are otters, until he is reminded of the Golden Rule. (34p. *Picture Book*)

Just Grace, Still Just Grace

Charise Meric

Seven-year-old Grace gets so involved in working with Grace W. and Grace F. on a school project that she fails to understand why she and her best friend, Mimi, are drifting apart. (138p./152p. *Realistic Fiction*)

Pictures From Our Vacation

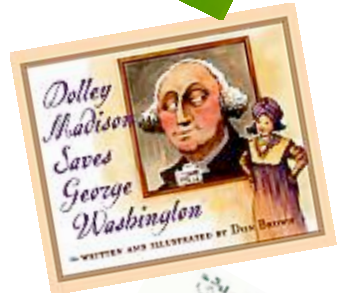
Lynne Rae Perkins

Given a camera that takes and prints tiny pictures just before leaving for the family farm in Canada, a young girl records a vacation that gets off to a slow start, but winds up being a family reunion filled with good memories. (32p. *Picture Book*)

There Is A Bird On Your Head!

Mo Willems

Opposite best friends Gerald, who is careful and worrisome, and Piggie, who is clumsy and carefree, run into a problem when two birds land on Gerald's head. (57p. *Easy Reader*)



Little Red Riding Hood

Pinkney, Jerry

A sweet little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest while on her way to visit her grandmother. (34p. *Folktale*)

The Story of Charles Atlas, Strong Man

McCarthy, Meghan

An illustrated account of the life of Angelo Siciliano, an Italian immigrant who, tired of being pushed around, developed a program of physical fitness that transformed his life and earned him the name Charles Atlas. (34p. *Biography*)

Previously

Allan Ahlberg

The adventures of various nursery rhyme and fairy tale characters, including Goldilocks, Jack and Jill, the frog prince, Cinderella, and the gingerbread man, are retold in backward sequence with each tale interrelated to the other. (32 p. *Picture Book*)

Ivy + Bean

Annie Barrows

When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. First in a series. (113 p. *Realistic Fiction, Humor*)

Dodsworth in New York

Tim Egan

When Dodsworth sets out for adventure, including a stop in New York City before going to Paris, London, and beyond, he does not expect a crazy duck to stow away in his suitcase and lead him on a merry chase. (48 p. *Humor, I Can Read Books*)

365 Penguins

Jean-Luc Fromental

When a box containing a penguin arrives anonymously on New Year's Day, a family of four is puzzled, and as they continue to receive one penguin a day throughout the year, their problems--and food budget, and storage issues--multiply. (45 p. *Picture Book*)

At Gleason's Gym

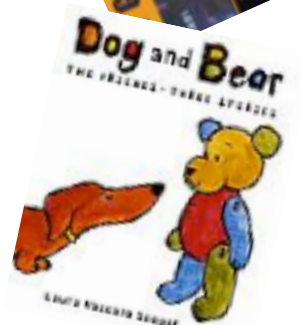
Ted Lewin

Looks at the action at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn through the eyes of Sugar Boy, a nine-year-old boxing champion who is following in the footsteps of former Gleason's trainees like Muhammad Ali and Jake La Motta. (40 p. *Information Book*)

Dog and Bear : Two Friends, Three Stories

Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Contains three easy-to-read stories that reveal the close friendship between Dog and Bear. (32 p. *Picture Book*)



First the Egg

Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Die-cut pages show the transformations of various animals and objects, such as a seed to a flower, paint to a picture, and a caterpillar to a butterfly. (28 p. *Picture Book*)

Listen, Listen

PhillisGershator

Illustrations and rhyming text explore the sights and sounds of nature in each season of the year. Great read -aloud. (34p. *Realistic Fiction*)

Dimity Dumpty: The Story of Humpty's Little Sister

Bob Graham

A great read-aloud!

Humpty Dumpty's little sister is too shy to be part of her family's circus act, but she finds courage when her brother needs her help. (40p. *Easy Fiction*)

The Tale of Pale Male: A True Story

Jeanette Winter

Tells the true story of two red-tailed hawks, Pale Male and Lola, who made their home atop an apartment building in New York City and sparked a protest by those who loved them when the apartment board had their eight-foot-wide nest cleared away. (32p. *Science*)

Grades K-3

You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Scary Tales to Read Together

Mary Ann Hoberman

This inviting book contains poems that tell tales about ghouls, ogres, zombies, and phantoms, presented in two voices for young children and adults to read together. Never fear, this title will not keep anyone awake at night...except to continue reading. (32p. *Poetry*)

A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever

Marla Frazee

Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the home of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation. (32 p. *Realistic Fiction*)

Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly

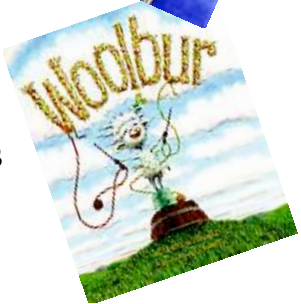
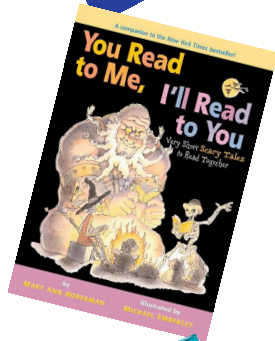
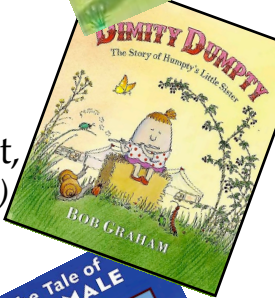
Alan Madison

First grade does not go very well for Velma, whose older sisters were practically perfect students, until her class takes a trip to a butterfly conservatory and a monarch butterfly demands to be her friend. (36p. *Easy*)

Woolbur

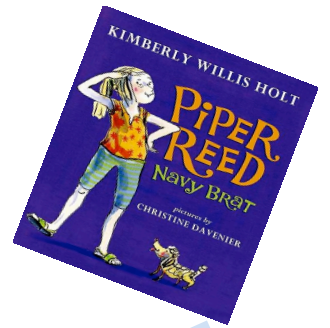
Leslie Helakoski

Woolbur, a young sheep who thinks differently than the others, worries his mother and father with his free-spiritedness, but his grandfather thinks he will be fine. (31p. *Easy*)



Piper Reed: Navy Brat
Kimberly Willis Holt

Piper is sad about leaving her home and friends behind when her father, a Navy aircraft mechanic, is transferred yet again, but with help from her often-annoying sisters and a surprise from their parents, she finds happiness in their new home in Pensacola, Florida. (146p. *Realistic Fiction*)



Robot Dreams
Sara Varon

The enduring friendship between a dog and a robot is portrayed in this wordless graphic novel. (205 p. *Fantasy, Graphic Novel*)



Fabrics of Fairytale
Tanya Robyn Batt

Includes bibliographical references (p. 80). A collection of fairy tales from around the world, each involving a special piece of clothing. A great read-aloud. (80p. *Folklore*)



The Ghost, the White House and Me
Judith St. George

Shortly after their mother takes the office of president, KayKay Granger and her sister begin to suspect that Abraham Lincoln's ghost is haunting the White House and begin to investigate. (153p. *Fiction-Ghosts*)



A Field Guide to Monsters
Johan Olander

Reports the habitat, diet, lifecycle, and other characteristics of a variety of unusual monsters, as observed and recorded by a monstrologist. (58p. *Fiction*)



Frank Zamboni and the Ice Resurfacing Machine
Kay Melchisedech Olson

This book describes, in graphic novel format, how Frank Zamboni created the ice-resurfacing machine and its effects on all ice-based sports. A great read for picky sports readers and hockey fanatics. (42p. *Nonfiction*)



Pass it Down : Five Picture-Book Families Make their Mark
Leonard S. Marcus

Five famous picture-book families share their memories, scrapbooks, book dummies, model shots, and final art, revealing how their books were created, how their artistic skills have evolved, and how one's roots influence who and what they become. (56 p. *Information Book*)



The Castle Corona
Sharon Creech

Two orphaned peasant children discover a mysterious pouch, the contents of which lead them to the majestic Castle Corona, where their lives may be transformed forever. (320p. *Fiction-Fantasy*)



Artist To Artist : 23 Major Illustrators Talk To Children About Their Art
Maurice Sendak, Rosemary Wells, Eric Carle, and twenty other children's book illustrators speak informally to children about their art and careers. Includes fold-out pages with photographs of early work, studios, materials, sketches, and finished works, as well as self-portraits. (105 p. *Information Book*)



The Lemonade War
Jacqueline Davies

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand. (173p. *Realistic Fiction*)



Sly the Sleuth
Donna Jo Napoli

Sly uses her detective skills to help her friends solve the case of something fishy, something cooking, and something seedy. (128p. *Mystery*)



Nikki & Deja
Karen English

When an arrogant new girl comes to school, third-graders and best friends Nikki and Deja decide to form a club that would exclude her but find the results not what they expected. (76p. *Realistic Fiction*)



When is a Planet Not a Planet: The Story of Pluto
Elaine Scott

This fabulous nonfiction book explains Pluto's reassignment on August 24, 2006, from planet to dwarf planet. A surefire winner for kids who love science and are interested in the planets! (43p. *Nonfiction-Science*)



Sugar Cane: A Caribbean Rapunzel
Patricia Storace

Here is a new version of the folktale "Rapunzel" in which a beautiful girl with long hair is imprisoned in a Caribbean tower by an island sorceress. A wonderful new tale to compare and contrast with the traditional version. (48p. *Fairy Tale*)



Grades 3-6

Escape! : the Story of the Great Houdini

Sid Fleischman

A biography of the magician, ghost chaser, aviator, and king of escape artists whose amazing feats are remembered long after his death in 1926. (210 p. *Biography*)



Who Was First? : Discovering the Americas

Russell Freedman

Examines the evidence that indicates others may have traveled to the Americas before Columbus in 1492 including Viking ruins, Mayan stonework, and other mysterious objects found in New England that date before Columbus. (88p. *Information Book*)



No Talking

Clements, Andrew

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest. (146p. *Realistic Fiction*)

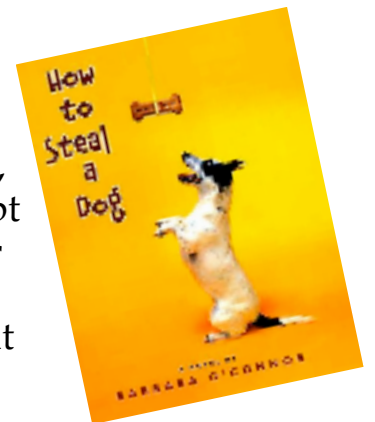


Grades 4 and Up

How To Steal A Dog : A Novel

O'Connor, Barbara

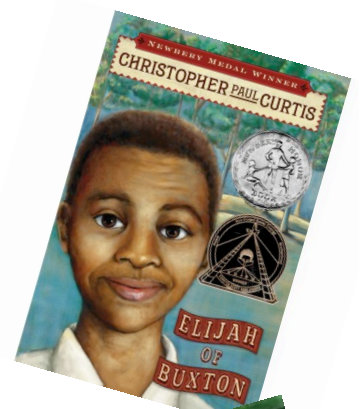
Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer. (170p. *Realistic Fiction*)



Elijah of Buxton

Christopher Paul Curtis

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family freedom. (341p. *Historical Fiction*)



Night Running

Elisa Carbone

It's 1838, and James has made a secret plan to escape Master Graham's farm- and slavery. His dog Zeus has to stay behind: he's simply too noisy to bring along on a dangerous nighttime journey. But when two white men capture James soon after he runs, he's grateful his faithful hunting dog didn't obey. Zeus has followed behind, and the scrappy hound rescues James from his captors. (32 p. *Historical Fiction*)



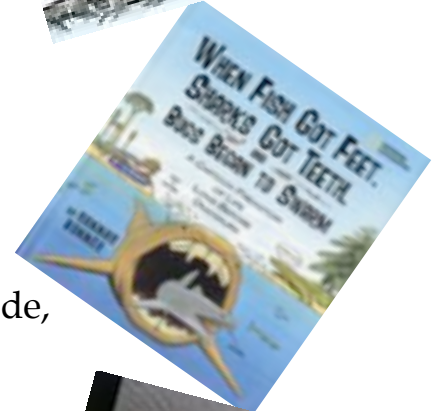
Being Caribou: Five Months On Foot With a Caribou Herd Karsten Heuer

Wildlife biologist Karsten Heuer and his wife, Leanne, follow the five-month migration of 123,000 caribou over mountain ranges and icy rivers to their calving grounds in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, becoming the first humans to ever join a herd on the trek. (48p. *Nonfiction*)



When Fish Got Feet, Sharks Got Teeth, and Bugs Began To Swarm : A Cartoon Prehistory Of Life Long Before Dinosaurs Hannah Bonner

Provides information on the prehistory of animal and plant life before the time of dinosaurs, including fun facts, descriptive illustrations, humorous cartoons, a glossary, a pronunciation guide, and a time line. (45 p. *Information Book*)



Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion Loree Griffin Burns

Describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels great distances by way of ocean currents and studies the impact of human activities on the oceans. (56p. *Nonfiction*)



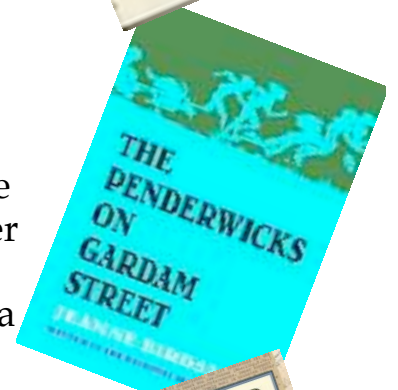
The Mysterious Benedict Society Trent Lee Stewart

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. (484 p. *Realistic Fiction*)



The Penderwicks on Gardam Street Jeanne Birdsall

The sequel to the delightful *The Penderwicks*. The sisters' Aunt Claire has come for a visit, bringing with her a letter from their late mother that encourages their father to date. A crisis ensues as the girls assume that this is the first step on the treacherous road to having a stepmother. (*Realistic Fiction*)



One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II Lita Judge

Based on true events, this inspiring picture book tells the story of an American family who establishes contact with a German family after World War II and sends them a package of much-needed supplies, including shoes. (36 p. *Historical Fiction*)



The Willoughbys

Lois Lowry

A tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, in which the four Willoughby children set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny. (174 p. *Fantasy*)



The True Meaning of Smekday

Adam Rex

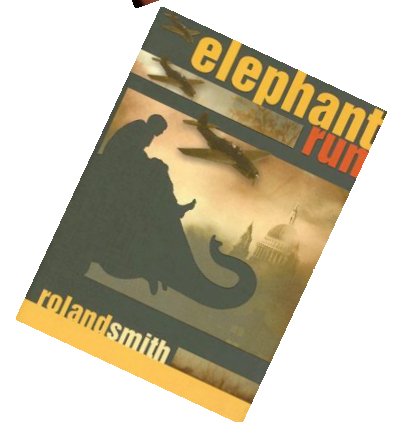
Illustrated with photos, drawings, newspaper clippings, and comics, this original novel by a noted illustrator is a hilarious story about a 12-year-old girl who writes an essay six months after an alien race has taken over Earth. (423 p. *Fantasy*)



Elephant Run

Roland Smith

Nick's father and others are taken prisoner when his plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, leaving Nick and his friend Mya to risk their lives in order to free them from the POW camp. (318 p. *Historical Fiction*)



A Crooked Kind of Perfect

Linda Urban

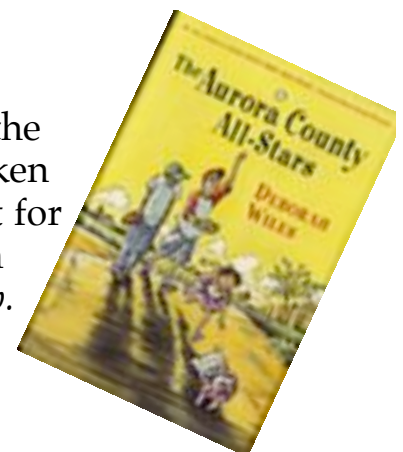
Sure that she'll be on her way to Carnegie Hall if only she could have a baby grand, ten-year-old Zoe Elias' dreams hit a sour note when her dad returns from the music store with an organ. (213 p. *Realistic Fiction*)



The Aurora County All-Stars

Deborah Wiles

Twelve-year-old House Jackson, star pitcher and team captain of the Aurora County All-Stars, has been sidelined for a year with a broken elbow. Now that he's healed, the biggest game of the season is set for the same day as the pageant for the county's 200th anniversary-an event directed by the very girl who caused Jackson's injury. (242 p. *Realistic Fiction*)



The Talented Clementine

Sara Pennypacker

Eight-year-old Clementine, convinced that she has no talents, tries to find a way to avoid participating in the class talent show. Book two (of 3) in the Clementine series. A Great read aloud!(137 p. *Realistic Fiction, Humor*)



Living Color

Steve Jenkins

Looks at a wide range of colorful animals, describing how their feathers, scales, shells, and skin help them survive, warn predators, signal friends, attract a mate, or hide from their enemies. (32 p. *Information Book*)



The Curious Adventures of the Abandoned Toys

Julian Fellowes

When Doc the bear arrives at the dump from his former home, he isn't sure about what awaits him but his new friends are determined to make his new home a welcoming one. (60p. *Fiction-Fantasy*)



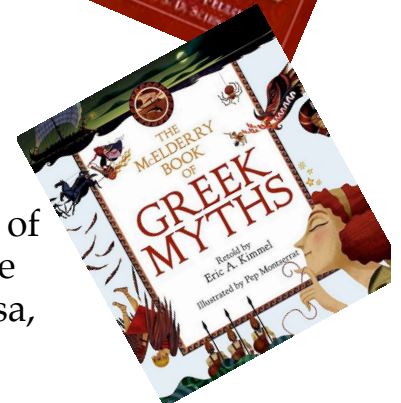
All Ages

The McElderry Book of Greek Myths

Retold by Eric Kimmel

A great read-aloud!

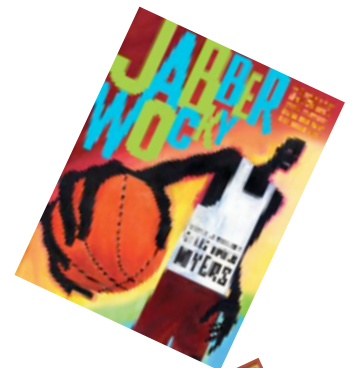
An enchanting, beautifully illustrated book of the retellings of twelve of the best known classic Greek myths, including the stories of Pandora, Icarus, Persephone, King Midas, Medusa, and others. (96p. *Mythology*)



Jabberwocky : The Classic Poem from Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking Glass, And What Alice Found There

Christopher Myers

Reinterprets Lewis Carroll's famous poem about the dreaded Jabberwocky. (32p.)



The Invention of Hugo Cabret : A Novel in Words and Pictures

Brian Selznick

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. (2008 Caldecott Award Winner) (533p.)



Hiromi's Hands

Lynne Barasch

This picture book biography tells the true story of Hiromi Suzuki, who, with the help of her father, Akira Suzuki, proudly became one of the first female sushi chefs in New York. (36p. *Biography*)

All Ages

What To Do About Alice? How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy!

Barbara Kerley

This lively, illustrated picture book biography of Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the daughter of Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt, focuses on Alice's many experiences and adventures while her father was president of the United States. (44p. *Biography*)

Ape

Martin Jenkins

Describes the behavior, diets, and habitats of the orangutan, chimpanzee, bonobo, and gorilla before revealing that humans are the other great ape, discussing simple similarities between people and the other apes and the need to protect these species. (45 p. *Information*)



INTEREST LEVELS DEFINED

In addition to titles, authors and annotations for our recommended new picks, parents will also find that we have added page numbers and interest levels to further assist you in helping your child choose an appropriate book.

It is important to note that interest levels do not serve the same function as reading levels, which can be provided only by a literacy specialist or classroom teacher who has had the opportunity to instruct and work with a student individually.

Reading levels are determined as part of an overall reading instruction program and are used for strategy-based teaching. While students will use these strategies to practice their reading during the summer, they are not limited to this reading level, but may either challenge themselves by trying a harder book, or relax by reading a book that they have already read or heard read aloud.

Interest levels like those noted in our list are more reflective of content than they are of reading ability. We have chosen newly published titles that we hope will be interesting to your child and thus stimulate his or her motivation in continuing to read - in and of itself a tremendous predictor of academic success.

During the school year teachers, literacy specialists and librarians are the “experts” who share their love of reading with your child in a variety of ways. The lengthy summer break provides the opportunity for parents to use their own values and knowledge of their child to help choose which books are most appropriate and enjoyable for their child.



Ingrid Conry, 3W
Upham Elementary School

